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Films. "Into the Woods" hits theaters tomorrow, with Anna Kendrick as a very unhappy Cinderella. The star dishes on why dark movies — maybe even "Pulp Fiction" — are good for your kids. PAGE 13

Let's scare the kids

Anna Kendrick takes on the role of Cinderella in "Into the Woods," the splashy movie of Stephen Sondheim's fairy tale mash-up musical. / GETTY IMAGES

Pantless rapist is returned to Philly

PAGE 02

Stone killed self with drug cocktail

PAGE 02

What do see at the movies this holiday

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Flyers stars talk holiday memories, hockey

PAGE 25

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Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 Discreet guide to selling unwanted Christmas gifts

2 Joe Cocker dies

3 VIDEO: Justin Timberlake surprises fans with special performance - for Pope Francis

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play and to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

The Alberto Suarez allegedly grabbed his victim just yards from this bus shelter. Police headquarters is in the background. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

'Pantless' rapist to face Philly charges

Justice. A man who raped a woman in Center City in 2010 and fled was returned to Philly Monday night.

On Monday, a Philly police officer went to Mexico City to put cuffs on a suspect wanted for a violent 2010 rape in Center City.

Alberto Suarez, 37, is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and rape for the Aug. 29 incident.

Suarez allegedly grabbed the 22-year-old victim as she walked down N. 8th Street toward Race streets, dragged her beside the SEPTA Broad-Ridge Spur line station, and concealed behind a parked car, raped, beat and choked her against the wall of the subway station.

"It was a brutal assault to the point where the victim almost lost consciousness," said Lt. Anthony McFadden of the PPD Special Victims Unit.

Suarez was dubbed "the pantless rapist" because he left pants and fled naked after passersby interrupted the rape.

Suarez, a Mexican national not legally in the U.S. at the time of the crime, was arrested by the Federales in 2012 after the FBI tracked him to the town of Chimalhuacan, outside Mexico City.

"We hunted him down," said FBI Philadelphia Special Agent in Charge Edward Hanko.

Photos on a camera found in the pants at the scene led police to find Suarez' former residence in South Philly and track him to Mexico.

McFadden called the extradition a "bittersweet" moment for the victim.

"She has had four years of trying to get some closure and some relief. Now unfortunately the wound's gonna be reopened again, but there's even more closure now that she knows he's in custody and will never harm anybody again," McFadden said.

Suarez also face charges for raping a teenage girl in Pittsburgh in March 2010.

Visit **Metro.us** for more news on crime in Philadelphia.

Quoted

"A Philadelphia police officer, accompanied by an FBI agent, traveled to Mexico City, put the handcuffs on Alberto Suarez, and brought him back."

Special Agent Hanko

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
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Public transit

SEPTA shows schedule for the holidays

SEPTA is working on a special schedule from Christmas Eve into the holiday weekend.

On Wednesday, Market-Frankford and Broad Street Lines will be operating on a 24-hour schedule. Nite Owl trains on each line run every 20 minutes from 12:01 a.m. until 5 a.m. The Norristown High Speed Line will operate on a regular weekday schedule.

Nine Regional Rail lines (Trenton, Warminster, Norristown, Thorndale, Newark, West Trenton, Elwyn, Doylestown, and Malvern) will operate usual run rush-hour service (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) during a special mid-day schedule from noon to 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

On Thursday, the BSL and El will also operate on a Sunday schedule, and all Regional Rail lines will operate on a Sunday schedule.

On Friday, the BSL and El will operate on a modified weekday schedule, but the Regional Rail will operate on a regular weekday schedule.

For more information visit SEPTA.org.

TOMMY ROWAN

Bradley Stone / REUTERS

Confirmed suicide. Bradley Stone killed himself with a cocktail of chemicals

Bradley Stone's death was officially ruled a suicide by drug overdose.

Hours after killing his ex-wife, her mother, grandmother, sister, 14-year-old niece and sister's husband and severely injuring her nephew on Dec. 15, Stone snacked on a lethal cocktail of pills in his successful attempt at suicide.

The Montgomery County Coroner on Tuesday announced the results of Stone's toxicology report, which showed Stone had died after ingesting a sleep aid, an anti-schizophrenia medicine and a stimulant.

Shortly after his body was found, the Montgomery County district attorney overseeing the investigation, Risa Vetri Ferman, said Stone died of a self-inflicted cutting wound.

Stone's body was found in a wooded area in New Hanover Township, about a half mile from his home in Pennsburg, about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia. The body had been there for about 12 hours.

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Philly family: After a robbery, Christmas won't be Christmas

Hardships. After a robbery, the holidays got a lot harder for a Mayfair woman.

If Bonnie Moran didn't have her mother and the family house in Mayfair to fall back on, she might be homeless right now.

"I'd definitely be in a shelter right now, because I don't have anyone else," said the unemployed 31-year-old mother of three, who struggles with spinal bifida and lupus. "I keep going because I have to. I've got kids. I never thought I'd have kids, but I do. I'm lucky."

In recent months, Moran, who typically lives off $910 a month in a combination of Social Security and food stamp payments, has had an unusually bad run of luck.

On Halloween night, she was beaten and robbed at Cottman and Frankford avenues, a crime that attracted media attention.

Moran said she and a friend were singled out by a group of 17 attackers who thought they were gay.

"If they hit me in the spine, I'd be crippled," she said. "I could have been in a wheelchair for the rest of my life."

A male friend sustained serious injuries fighting off the attackers, but not before Moran had her wallet stolen, as well heirloom jewelry items from her great-grandparents. All she managed to keep was their wedding band, she said.

"That's something that you keep in your family for the rest of your life. To have it ripped away from you ... it's like taking a piece of your heart," Moran said. "All I want for Christmas is my Nan's jewelry back. But I'll never see it again."

Bonnie Moran with her sons Matthew, 13, Dylan, 10, and Ryan, 2, at her home in North Philadelphia on Dec. 22, 2014.

Quoted

"I used to feel safe walking my son up and down this alleyway behind my house at night, but not anymore." Moran

Also lost was Moran's prepaid ATM card worth $400, she said, and $325 in gift cards that she was keeping in the wallet.

"Everything I scrimped and saved," she said. "I got jumped 15 blocks from here," she said at her Mayfair home. "I used to feel safe walking my son up and down this alleyway behind my house at night, but not anymore."

Adopt a Family

Bonnie and more than 90 other families around Philadelphia are asking for help through Adopt a Family, a holiday charity to get gifts to families in need through ABC Men, Inc. Visit **abcmen.org** to learn how to sponsor a family.

Moran has recovered from the injuries she sustained.

"After all my expenses, my remaining income is just $27," she said. "As of now I have a present for each child. That's it."

Moran said she has held odd jobs, but does not work currently. Two years ago, she moved home with her mother.

Her ex-husband helps cover expenses for the two oldest boys. The youngest child's father lives with Moran, but was recently injured and can't work.

Her oldest son is autistic, and she pays $100 a month for a tutor for him, she said. Her youngest is also autistic, can only speak about a dozen words, and has "major behavioral issues."

Still, Moran says the future will be brighter.

"I already told them, 'Look, Christmas isn't gonna be Christmas, this year,'" she said of her son. "My boy told me, 'Mom, I already have the greatest present ever. And it's you."

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Santa's helpers

Eagles stars drop off Christmas gifts

Eagles players visited a Northeast Philadelphia elementary school Monday to deliver gifts to students in classrooms adopted by the team.

Eagles quarterback Mark Sanchez and defensive tackle Bennie Logan visited Spruance Elementary and handed out presents.

These kids are at the local Children's Crisis Treatment Center, which the Eagles support.

METRO

The Eagles' Bennie Logan hands out presents.

Land Bank may turn 2015 into year of Philly's renewal

Real estate.
New agency will consolidate city property holdings.

The future of Philadelphia is hiding in vacant lots and inside dilapidated and abandoned buildings, and it's the Philly Land Bank that will help bring that future to fruition, says Councilman Bobby Henon.

"We have an opportunity here to rid ourselves of unused, unwanted, dilapidated property and put it to good use," Henon said. "I think we can revolutionize the way we use our property surplus in the city."

The goal of the Philly Land Bank bill, which passed in 2014 and will be fully implemented in 2015, was to change the process of buying and developing vacant, city-owned land.

The city of Philadelphia has more than 30,000 vacant lots and abandoned buildings.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Quoted

"The Land Bank's strategic plan ensures that we are deliberate in protecting affordability in neighborhoods with rising housing prices." Quiñones Sánchez

While the city counts more than 30,000 vacant lots and abandoned buildings, it claims to own 8,000 of those properties through various city agencies. Those properties will now be consolidated into the Philly Land Bank.

The Bank's 11-member board will then sell properties to bidders with the best plan, according to Henon. The board will also have the power to foreclose on properties and avoid Sheriff sales.

The Land Bank will also abide by community requests, Henon said.

"The Land Bank will help us make major progress in returning vacant, tax-delinquent properties to vibrant and tax-producing reuse," said Councilwoman Maria Quiñones Sánchez, the Land Bank's champion in the Council.

"It will allow us to consolidate publicly-owned vacant properties in one place for the first time, with one transparent set of rules."

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Verdict. Canadian man found guilty of murder, dismembering student

A Canadian man who killed and dismembered a Chinese student in Montreal in 2012 was found guilty of first-degree murder on Tuesday, with the jury delivering the verdict after more than a week of deliberating the gruesome case.

Luka Magnotta, 32, had admitted to killing and dismembering engineering student Jun Lin, 33, but pleaded not guilty on grounds of mental illness.

Magnotta was also found guilty of committing an indignity to a human body, publishing and mailing obscene material and criminally harassing Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other members of Parliament.

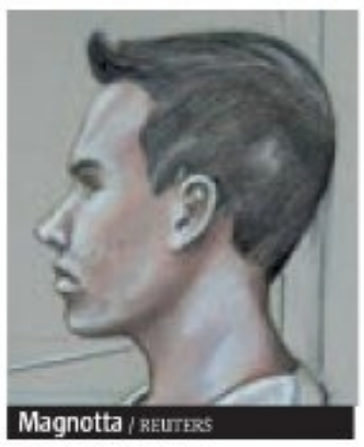
The prosecution had argued that Magnotta was "a man on a mission" and had carefully planned his acts.

The verdict came on the eighth day of jury deliberations.

Magnotta, standing in a glassed-in, high-security prisoner's dock, showed no emotion and only lowered his eyes as the verdicts on each of the five charges were read out.

A first-degree murder conviction in Canada carries an automatic life sentence with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

The presiding judge, Justice Guy Cournoyer, told the court the case "was by all standards unique" and praised the jury. REUTERS


Magnotta / REUTERS

Sony backtracks, allows limited release of movie

Flip-flopping. President Barack Obama reportedly pleased that Sony reconsidered its decision.

Sony Pictures last Wednesday canceled the Dec. 25 release after major U.S. theater chains pulled out of showing the film because of threats from hackers. / REUTERS

Sony Pictures cleared the way on Tuesday for release of "The Interview" in some U.S. theaters on Christmas Day, less than a week after pulling the movie following a devastating cyberattack that has been blamed on North Korea.

Sony Pictures Chief Executive Michael Lynton said there would be "a limited theatrical release" in the United States of the comedy about a fictional plot to assassinate North Korea leader Kim Jong-un, and said the studio was looking for more options to screen the film.

Lynton said in Tuesday's statement: "We have never given up on releasing 'The Interview,' and we're excited our movie will be in a number of theaters on Christmas Day." He said Sony was trying to secure other platforms and more theaters "so that this movie reaches the largest possible audience."

The founder of the Texas-based Alamo Drafthouse Cinema chain, Tim League, wrote on Twitter on Tuesday that it planned to show the film. A theater in Atlanta, the Plaza Atlanta, said on social media that it will also show the movie.

It remained unclear how many theaters would be allowed to screen the film and if major movie chains, which had decided not to open the film last week owing to security concerns, would join the group of authorized exhibitors. REUTERS

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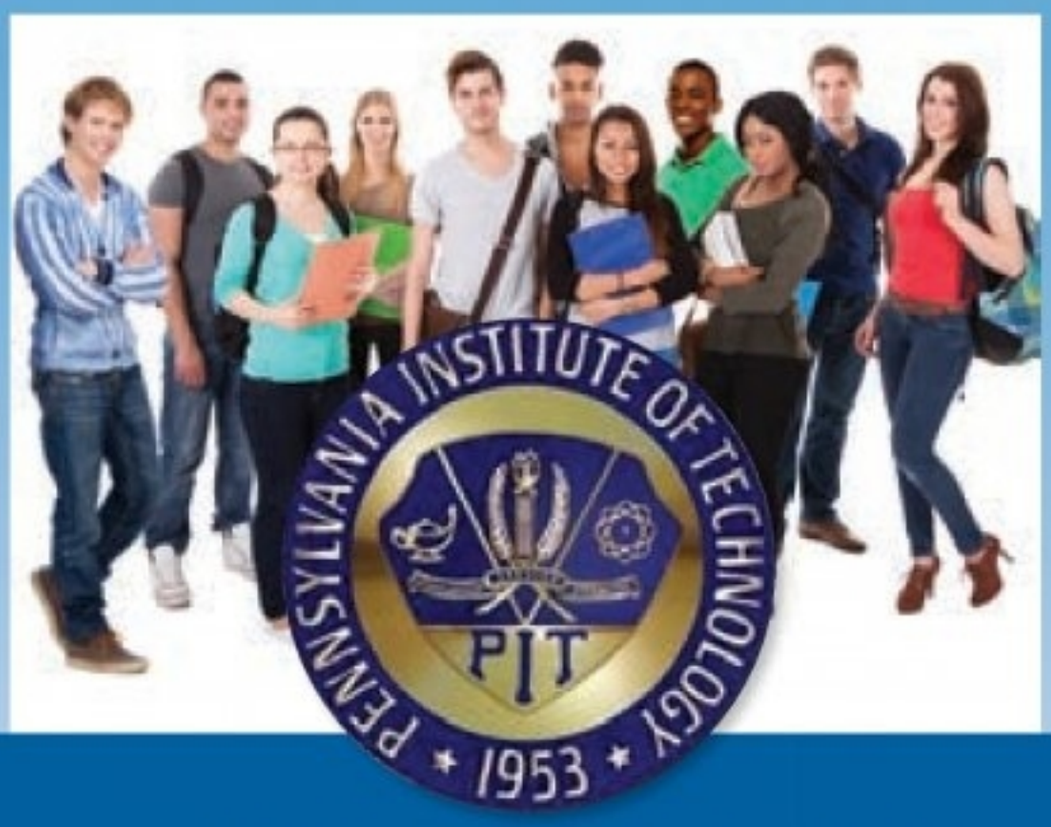

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OMG! Cicret bracelet turns your arm into a touchscreen display

The Cicret will display information from any of your devices on your wrist. / CICRET

A French developer has created a wristband prototype that projects your smartphone touchscreen on your arm. Twenty-five-year-old Guillaume Pommier's Cicret device uses eight proximity sensors that send information on your finger movement to the processor in your bracelet. So your smartphone can be controlled in extreme conditions, even underwater. "Not only your arm, but any surface can become a touchscreen," said Pommier, who is currently developing the first prototype of the gizmo.

Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

Why do you want the Cicret bracelet to become reality?
We want to create an independent device that allows users to do what they want with a computer, tablet or phone, but on your skin or any surface you choose. The first purpose of a bracelet: to let you control the storage of personal information in a close and secure way.

Can it only work on skin?
In fact, any surface can become a touchscreen. Our pico-projector doesn't make any difference about it. The Cicret can lead to many possible breakthroughs in touchscreen devices. I think we will possibly have touchscreen mirrors, windows and fridges in two years' time.

When will the bracelet be available?
The first prototype will be ready in a few weeks. But the preproduction version will be out in June. **DMITRY BELYAEV, METRO WORLD NEWS**

Question

How could it be helpful?

It allows to control your devices wherever you are, even driving a car, working in a manufacture, even taking a bath.

Stock falls

Keurig recalls 7.2 million single-serve brewers

Keurig Green Mountain Inc. is recalling about 7.2 million single-serve brewing machines, the coffee company announced on Tuesday, warning that the machines could overheat and injure users by spraying hot liquids on them.

Keurig's shares fell 2.5 percent to $136.29 in morning trading, as investors worried the recall would sow doubt about the brand as the company tries to roll out new brewers and expand beyond the single-serve coffee business.

Keurig Green Mountain
REUTERS

The company said the machines could malfunction especially if used to brew more than two cups in quick succession. The recall affects 6.6 million machines in the United States and 564,000 in Canada.

"We believe the earnings impact specifically from the recall is unlikely to be material but that it could hurt brand perception, negatively impacting future brewer sales," Mark Astrachan, an analyst at Stifel, Nicolaus & Co said in a note. **REUTERS**

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A monstrous collection

PAUL MICHAEL HUGHES, GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS, REX FEATURES

World record

Moshi Monsters cache takes record

For many children, it's a fun toy experience. But for Lucy Neath, Moshi Monsters is a down-right obsession. For Neath, 12, from Milton Keynes, this appetite for the toys — based on a virtual game that allows players to adopt their own pet monsters — has led her to amass 1,914 separate items of memorabilia. MWN

Collector's story

How toy collection came to life

Neath's feat has been recognized in the eighth edition of Guinness World Records Gamer's Edition 2015, out this week. The tiny creatures (moshlings) caught Lucy's eye three years ago when she started playing in the online children's forum. In two years, Lucy has posted hundreds of videos, gained over 14,000 subscribers and had 9,500,000 views.

Viewpoint

"I had no idea this would happen when I began playing Moshi three years ago. I spend most of my pocket money on Moshi merchandise and more than anything, I hope one day to go to Moshi HQ, as it would be a dream come true."

Neath

Moshi Monsters

- **Online game.** Gamers nurture virtual pet monsters and solve puzzles. The game has branched out into physical products, including toys and books.
- **Adoption of monsters.** Over 70 million Moshi Monsters have been adopted in over 150 countries worldwide: roughly a third in the United Kingdom, a third in the United States and a third across the rest of the world.

"I am totally overwhelmed to receive the Guinness World Record for the largest collection of Moshi Monsters memorabilia," said Neath. / REX FEATURES

Anna Kendrick: Why children should embrace the dark side

Exclusive. The "Into the Woods" star thinks kids can handle a lot more than we assume.

Anna Kendrick stars as a different sort of Cinderella in "Into the Woods." / PETER MOUNTAIN, UNIT

In "Into the Woods," Anna Kendrick plays Cinderella, though it might not exactly be the Cinderella you're familiar with. Stephen Sondheim's hit musical takes the much darker original versions of popular fairy tales and adds a post-modern twist, leaving the Disney versions spinning in its wake — which is surprising, since Disney produced the movie adaptation. So, this darker, more irony-fueled take on things: totally not for kids, right? Kendrick would beg to differ.

It seems funny that Disney would be handling this musical, considering its take on fairy tales.
I know. It's cool that they did this. I think it's smart because for another studio to do it, it would've felt like some kind of attack or something.

As this film shows, the fairy tales used to be much, much darker.
I think that children are intrigued by the dark side of fairy tales. They always want to peer through their fingers and see the ugly bits, and I think that's something very smart that happens in this movie. Some of it is shiny and fun, and then there's little twists on things that kind of excite you. I think we all have movies that we saw when we were young, like "Watership Down" or "Flight of the Navigator" or "Labyrinth" — all these weird movies that left such an impression on us because it was challenging to us, because it was engaging our little brains in a way we weren't used to.

I remember being terrified of "The Ewok Adventure" when I was very little.
I never saw "The Ewok Adventure," but let me tell you, when that Ewok died in "Return of the Jedi," I was inconsolable for about a week. It just f—ed me up.

But kids need that, and adults tend to develop an unrealistic idea of what kids can and can't handle.
Yeah, completely. I mean, my brother showed me "Pulp Fiction" when I was about 10 and I turned out all right, for the most part.

What was your favorite part of "Pulp Fiction" when you first saw it?
Um, the dancing, probably. And I did like when they stabbed Uma Thurman with the adrenaline needle. That part was exciting. And even at that age, I remember that the smash cut to her in the car looking all f—ed up was sort of funny and rewarding. I didn't understand why, but I was like, "That makes me laugh. Something terrible happened, and now something funny is happening." So there is that part of kids' brains that are really compelled by darkness.

And we should obviously encourage that.
Yeah. No heroin use in this film, though. Just for the record, in case there are any parents reading.

There are a few notable changes from the original "Into the Woods," and Sondheim has some diehard fans. How do you gird yourself for their reactions?
That's a tough one because all you can ever do is hope that the attitude that they take is, "Well, you should see the show because the show is different and exciting as well." I don't think that anybody who saw the Harry Potter films was discouraged from reading the books, so hopefully this just exposes people to the piece and gets them excited about more live theater. The worst version is people being protective just to be elitist about it.

With this, "The Last Five Years" and the "Pitch Perfect" films, do you find it bizarre that some people still seemed surprised that you sing?
Yeah, sometimes, but I'm actually sort of charmed by that at this point. A lot of people have been saying, "Oh, but you already knew how to sing because we saw you in 'Pitch Perfect,' and I'm like, "Yeah, but this is not exactly the same thing." This kept me up at night, and "Pitch Perfect" is pop songs. I actually find it kind of charming when people are pleasantly surprised, because when something kicks your ass and you claw your way to competence, there's a little resentment when people are like, "Oh, but this must've been a walk in the park for you."

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Holidays spent at the movies

Musical. Only the first half works

Stephen Sondheim's fairy tale mash-up becomes the latest movie musical extravaganza, with a pile of familiar characters — Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), her prince (Chris Pine) and an all-purpose witch (Meryl Streep) — hanging out together in the same town.

Meryl Streep skulks about "Into the Woods." / PETER MOUNTAIN

The lowdown Along with "Sweeney Todd," "Into the Woods" is Stephen Sondheim's most audience-friendly work — until the second half comes around. The tonal shift is the kind of thing that requires a deft hand, which director Rob Marshall does not possess. Unlike Marshall's previous musical movies — the undeserved Oscar-gobbler "Chicago" and the Fellini fiasco "Nine" — it's periodically saved by some excellent performances, chief among them Emily Blunt as the wonderfully expressive wife of the Baker (James Corden).

But so much is hacked in the film's second act that the shift to an emotional tone feels unsupported, and the film crawls to a limp finish. Still, it nails the princes' chest-pumping "Agony" number. **MATT PRIGGE**

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Review

Amy Adams sets the record straight. / THE WEINSTEIN CO.

'Big Eyes'

"Big Eyes" tells the crazy story of Margaret Keane (Amy Adams), a painter whose husband, Walter (Christoph Waltz), took credit for her immensely popular works, which featured sad children with giant eyes.

The film is a tale of suffering at the hands of a monster who traded in mental abuse. But the tone is somehow broad even at its most serious. As directed by Tim Burton — reuniting with his "Ed Wood" writers — it's a loud-colored and sometimes just plain loud drama with the camp that some modern audiences see in the hyper-stylized melodramas of Douglas Sirk.

Adams is her usual withdrawn self, deflating quietly as she lets a swaggering man walk all over her. Everyone else is a cartoon playing to the rafters. The mass market quality of Margaret's paintings obscures to the cognescenti the artistry that went into it. Meanwhile, here's a film by one of the world's most popular filmmakers, who himself has turned a special kind of gloom into a commodity. Much of "Big Eyes" is broad to a fault — if anchored by Adams' delicate turn — but underneath the angst is another level of equal turmoil. **MATT PRIGGE**

Remake. Marky Mark leads a sarcastic redo of a '70s classic

A somewhat obscure '70s great starring James Caan becomes a still very funny drama about a professor (Mark Wahlberg) who gambles his way into deep debt with three people he shouldn't be indebted to, including a frequently shirtless John Goodman.

"The Gambler," with Mark Wahlberg, is saved by a very strong, sometimes strange sense of humor. / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The lowdown Despite what purists say, the less faithful a movie remake, the better it may be. That said, it's possible this new "The Gambler" goes too far. The original understood the gambling dilemma: Winning could never make its antihero happy. But Wahlberg's Jim isn't really a gambler. He simply uses high-stakes gambling to get at his real pursuit, destroying his life so that, should he still be alive afterwards, he can build himself anew.

What saves this is its a—hole attitude. Screenwriter William Monahan ("The Departed") is a peerless writer of sharp-witted insults, which Wahlberg knows how to rattle off. Wahlberg's Jim is pitiless and hate-filled, never once begging for viewer sympathy but wildly charismatic nonetheless. And it's hard to write off a holiday release that burns five minutes so its star can make people who don't believe Shakespeare wrote the works of Shakespeare.

MATT PRIGGE

Review

'The Gambler'

Director: Rupert Wyatt

Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Brie Larson

Rating: R

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Jack O'Connell stars in "Unbroken." / UNIVERSAL

'Unbroken'

●●○○○

There are three movies in Angelina Jolie's "Unbroken," and you're bound to like at least one of them. One is a sappy elegy to youth and America on the brink of World War II. The second is a nifty life raft picture. The third is a POW camp grinder, dragging us through the 2 ½ years its hero — real-life Olympian-turned-prisoner Louie Zamperini (Jack O'Connell) — spent being beaten. It's never boring, but there's a lack of a real center.

MATT PRIGGE

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Benedict Cumberbatch talks about playing an expert at keeping secrets

Interview. The actor wants you to learn about the hero he plays in the WWII drama "The Imitation Game."

In "The Imitation Game," out now, Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the role of Alan Turing, who basically ended WWII. / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

When Benedict Cumberbatch signed on to play WWII code breaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing in "The Imitation Game," he became pretty darn enamored with the man. And he thinks you should be, too. So here is why Cumberbatch thinks Turing is such "an extraordinary, extraordinary, extraordinary human being" — and why the film, which chronicles how the tide of war turned, deserves your attention.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH
WIREIMAGE

He made great things out of great suffering
"All of the worst moments in his life led to achievements. Being ostracized from a group made him think about isolating work. Not understanding how to communicate because so much of what he had to deal with in his life had to do with secrets made him an expert cryptographer. The idea of clandestine, repressed coding and analyzing that language was just completely borne out of his circumstance."

His humorlessness can be funny "It should be funny — and sometimes unintentionally on his part. It's him missing the point, or not missing the point but everyone else using lazy language and him thinking they mean literally what they mean. I don't think he was always trying to be a pedant. I think he genuinely did think in a very literal way, hence his discoveries."

Spoiler alert

It didn't end well for him

"I think it definitely was, without a doubt, suicide. He ended his life," Cumberbatch says of Turing's demise. Turing was convicted of "homosexual acts" in 1952 and punished with chemical castration. "The doctor got embarrassed about giving him [estrogen] injections so he put an implant in his hip, and it went on operating after the two-year sentence had finished. And he carved it out with a carving knife — he literally cut into his leg. This extraordinary mathematician and war hero cut into his own leg to try to stop it. And the desperation of that leads me to believe there was absolutely no way that it was anything other than suicide, conspiracy theories be damned."

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Stratus Rooftop Lounge is hosting A Midwinter's Night Dream. / PROVIDED

Ring in the New Year

2015. Get your party hats and noisemakers ready

There is absolutely nothing wrong with cozying up at home on New Year's Eve, sparking cider in hand and Ryan Seacrest on the television. But if the changing of years is your excuse to go out and party like it's 1999, we suggest bringing your bae to one of these turnt up parties sure to be on fleek. (Sorry, we wanted to use 2014 slang one last time.)

For the younger crowd

Union Transfer (1026 Spring Garden St.). The Making Time blowout is at Union Transfer again, with a five-hour open bar and midnight champagne toast for $50. Dave P, Sammy Slice, Steve Vena, Broadzilla and others will be providing the music. Get ready to dance up a sweat.

For the trendy

Hotel Monaco (433 Chestnut St.). The Old City hotel, home to Stratus Rooftop Lounge and Red Owl Tavern, is throwing A Midwinter's Night Dream, with two floors of food, drinks, dancing, live music from 5th Avenue and beats from DJ A-Run for $150.

Bring the kids

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Family-friendly

Before the babysitter relieves you of your child-rearing duties for a couple of hours, tire the little ones out with an afternoon of free activities at Franklin Square (Sixth and Race streets). There will be crafts, music and a kiddie dance party, and even a countdown to the "square drop" at SquareBurger.

Stick around for the early round of fireworks over the water: the first SugarHouse New Year's Eve fireworks show is at 6 p.m. And if you can last longer, Franklin Square's final Electrical Spectacle light show of the season is at 8 p.m.

For the nostalgic

The Olde Bar (125 Walnut St.). Restaurateur Jose Garces is turning Old Original Bookbinder's, the historic Philly spot opened in the late 1800s, into The Olde Bar. It's opening for a preview party New Year's Eve, with a full bar, food including a slider station with those delicious burgers from Garces' Village Whiskey and live music from The York Street Hustle. Tickets are $195.

For the artsy

FringeArts (140 N. Columbus Blvd.). Red 40 & The Last Groovement is providing the soundtrack for FringeArts' New Year's Funkin' Eve. Expect a dance floor, a bonfire in the beer garden and they promise, "all the balloons you can handle." It's $15; if you're eating at the venue's restaurant La Peg first, entrance to the party is free.

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Being _____ at Christmas

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National Museum of American Jewish History
101 S. Independence Mall East
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www.nmajh.org
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Boxing Day Beer Festival

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Kwanzaa Celebration

Saturday and Sunday
The African American Museum in Philadelphia
701 Arch St.
$10-$14, 215-574-0380
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Families can bring their kids to this two-day event, where they'll learn through music, dance, storytelling and crafts projects everything they need to know about the holiday of the African diaspora, from the significance of the kinara and its candles to the Nguzo Saba, or Seven Principles.
MATTHEW DINARO

COMEDY

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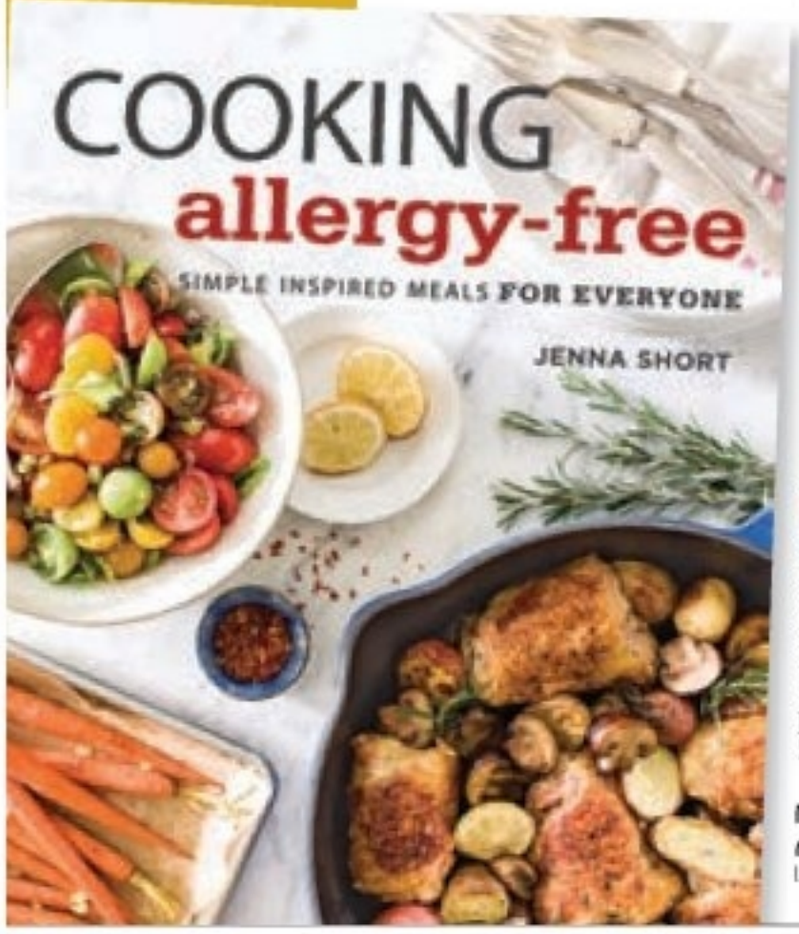
What to serve your picky dinner guests

Hosting. Special diets don't have to make get-togethers frustrating.

How many of your friends and family have special dietary requirements? These days the answer is, probably many of them. Dairy-free, egg-free, nut-free, gluten-free and soy-free are just a handful of restrictions you might encounter trying to accommodate guests as you plan your menu. Whether your guests are keeping allergic reactions at bay, clinging to the latest fad diets or adhering to personal or religious beliefs, hosting a dinner party can turn out to be a major pain. So the question is, how do you cook a meal that is practically free of almost everything imaginable yet still wows the crowd?

"Everyone deserves good food and dessert," says Jenna Short, owner of Shortbreadnyc.com and the author of "Cooking Allergy-Free: Simple Inspired Meals for Everyone." The recipe for her favorite crowd-pleasing appetizer, "The Bloody Mary Salad," is below.



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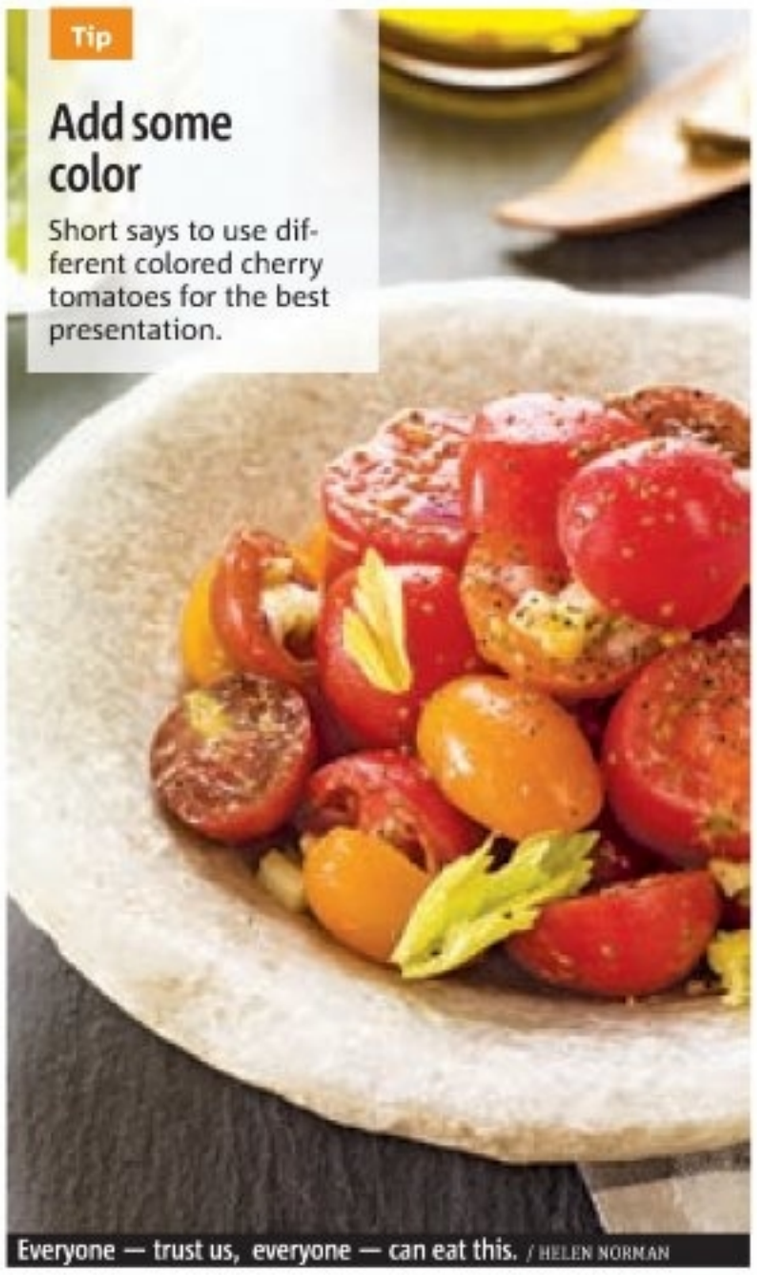
Tip

Add some color

Short says to use different colored cherry tomatoes for the best presentation.



Everyone — trust us, everyone — can eat this. / HELEN NORMAN

Ingredients

- ¾ cup finely chopped red onions
- 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar, divided
- 3 pints cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup finely chopped celery hearts
- 2 tablespoons prepared horseradish (See ingredients note.)
- 1 tablespoon gluten-free Worcestershire sauce (See ingredients note.)
- ½ teaspoon celery seeds
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

** Not all brands of horseradish and Worcestershire sauce are gluten-free, so check the label.*

Recipe. Bloody Mary Salad

Directions

1 Put the onions in a large bowl and pour 1 tablespoon of the sherry vinegar on top; let the onions sit for about 10 minutes, then add the tomatoes and celery.

2 Whisk the remaining sherry vinegar, horseradish, Worcestershire sauce and celery seeds in a medium bowl. Drizzle in the olive oil and whisk until emulsified. Pour the dressing on top of the tomato salad and toss to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside to marinate (the longer it sits, the more intense the flavor will be). Serve cold or at room temperature.

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Holiday dressing

Tips. Designer Rebecca Taylor tells us what to wear to the party.

Still haven't decided what to wear to your holiday celebration? Designer Rebecca Taylor, known for her feminine party dresses and flirty tops, plays stylist.

Office party

Skip the glitzy cocktail dress for drinks with coworkers, says Taylor. "If you've been at work all day and you're leaving from there, it's nice to wear something that feels a bit more modern," she says. Her suggestion: a jumpsuit.

"It looks really chic with a little jacket [during the day], and when you leave you can just put on a red lipstick, perfume and your high heels."

Hanging with the family

"When it's a family affair you're usually home, it's cozy and you're cooking in the kitchen so you can afford to wear something a little bit more relaxed — but that still feels like you're dressing up a bit," says the designer. Meaning, don't fall into the sweatpants trap just because you're home. Taylor suggests pairing a dress with Birkenstocks or ankle booties: "The look is homey but polished."

Cocktails with friends

This is the time to wear the cutest little dress. "I like doing the little black dress — but in color," she says. "This time of year, it's nice to wear something that feels a little more special. I love hot pink at the moment. It feels so chic."

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Three last-minute gift ideas

For the foodie

They'll spoon these artisan preserves, in yum flavor combos such as fig and black tea, right from the jar. **Quince & Apple, $8.50, QuinceandApple.com**

For your office bestie

The perfect deskside steep just got easier. **Tovolo owl tea infuser, $7.95, SurLaTable.com**

For mom

She gave birth to you, now buy her some fancy cream. **La Prairie Overnight Lifting Facial set, $300, LaPrairie.com**

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

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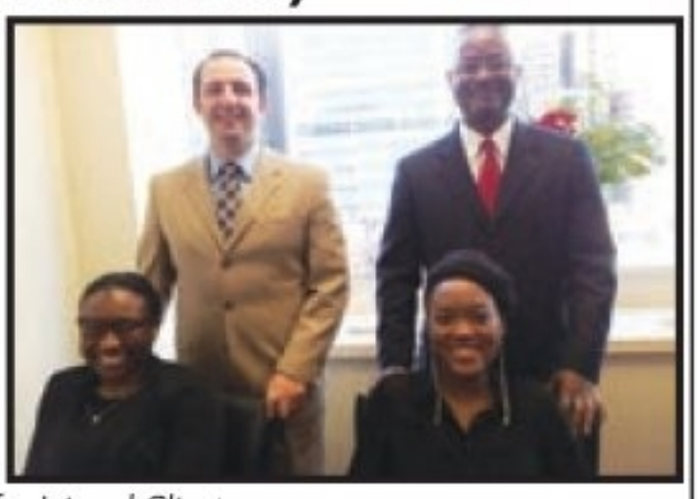

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Drunk on calories

This kind of liquid diet won't help you lose weight. / PURESTOCK

Spirited holiday. Count your glasses – those drinks could add up to a meal.

How many times have you heard the line, "A few drinks won't hurt"? Well, actually, they might, if you're watching calories. According to a new survey, 80 percent of wine and 60 percent of lager drinkers don't know how many calories they're consuming when they imbibe.

The Royal Society for Public Health, the British health body that published the findings, said that "Calorie content should be included with some urgency." They add: "The public's health is under threat from an obesity epidemic and harm caused by the irresponsible consumption of alcohol."

The reason that alcohol causes weight gain is because of its faster fat absorption, while its sugar content increases appetite.

The RSPH wants the European Commission to introduce calorie labeling for alcoholic drinks, as it "would help further support the public to make informed choices about their alcohol consumption and, ultimately, moderate their drinking."

French nutritionist Dr. Larry Dibo-Cohen explains, "It's a fact that alcohol contains a lot of calories; people watching their weight should definitely take that into consideration when having an alcoholic beverage."

What are the best drinks to go for?

Dr. Dibo-Cohen says opt for Champagne or wine and avoid hard liquor. Though the liquors themselves may not be particularly caloric, they're often mixed with sugary fruit juices, cream and sodas.

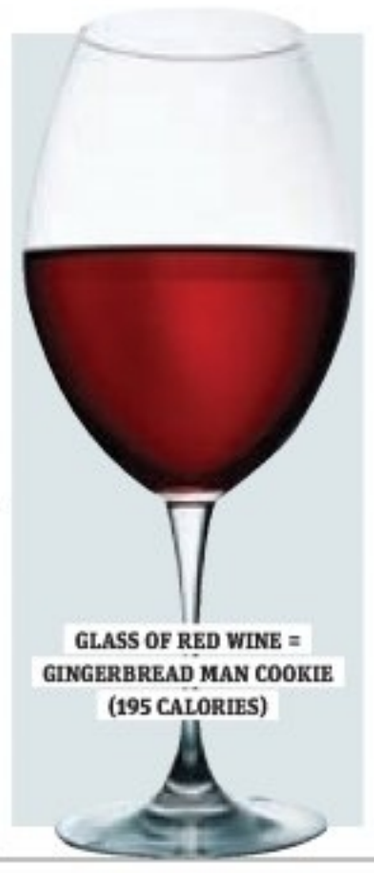
How do we minimize the damage?

Enjoy a drink, but stick to one serving, and don't starve yourself before Christmas lunch or dinner. Eating a balanced meal prior to the family feast will make you less likely to overeat.

ELODIE NOEL, MWN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE = SMALL BAKED POTATO (100 CALORIES)

GLASS OF WHITE WINE = CROISSANT (180 CALORIES)


GLASS OF RED WINE = GINGERBREAD MAN COOKIE (195 CALORIES)

TWO BOTTLES OF BEER = 5 OZ. SIRLOIN STEAK (275 CALORIES)

PINA COLADA = CHEESEBURGER (450 CALORIES)

RUM AND COKE = PLAIN BAGEL (200 CALORIES)

STORAGE KING USA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Monday December 29, 2014 at 12:00 PM, Storage King USA - Lancaster Ave, 5134 Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia PA 19131 (215-878-5594) Will Hold a public auction, items will sold to the highest bidder for cash.

The following units contain household and/or personal goods:

Steven Kelly 1002 • Tyrone Parker 1035 • Sharee Broughton 1044 • Sheila D. Nutter 1061
Joseph E. Jones 1080 • Tysa T. Allen 1124 • Rodney B. Roberts Sr. 160 • Jerwayne L. Haywood 166
Terry P. Carter 2006 • Sharon Merriweather 2064 • Louise Pringle 2182
Darryl Demota 2183 • Cassandra R. Perry 2184 • Marqueta Phillips 2189 • Louise Pringle 2255
Shanique S. Cromwell 2287 • Jamila Miles 2343 • Donald McCray 2344 • Nashea T. Ferguson 3139
Patricia Harper-Schools 4003 • David F. Devoue Jr. 4009 • Donell Hoey 2024

STORAGE KING USA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Monday December 29, 2014 at 1:00 PM, Storage King USA - Germantown at 335 E Price Street Philadelphia PA 19144 (215-844-8252) will hold a public auction. Items will be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

The following units contain household and/or personal goods:

Louis Sparks Jr 1024 • Charles Richardson 1077
Jermaine Saunders 1158 • Chantea Garner 1268
Angela Love 2298

STORAGE KING USA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Monday DECEMBER 29, 2014 at 3:00 PM, Storage King USA - Kensington at 3100 C Street Philadelphia PA 19134 (215-634-4115) will hold a public auction. Items will be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

The following units contain household and/or personal goods:

KEVIN BROWN 3133 • DENISE COLLIER 3033 • LEANNE CRONIN 3225 • ANTHONY DAVIS 2144
ALEXANDER GIPSON 3140 • TANYA GONZALEZ 2044 • MAGNAMA KAMARA 3013
KEVIN MCTINOSH 2047 • ROSA ROSADO 3049 • YAJAERA ROSARIO 2122 • KYLE WALLS 2012

MING SELF STORAGE

The following units will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord: Ming Self Storage - Germantown **at Public Sale,** by competitive bidding on **January 15, 2015 at NOON @**
MING SELF STORAGE 4663 STENTON AVE., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144
PERSONAL GOODS STORED IN THE FOLLOWING SPACES BY THE FOLLOWING TENANTS:

Kenneth Kim	Unit # A079	Kia L. Leak-Adderly	Unit # B2065	Jonathon Hawkins	Unit # A111
Shana Simon	Unit # A057	Curtis Brinkley	Unit # A113	Marvin Burwell	Unit # A045
Marvin Connors	Unit # B2071	Teneika M. Nesmith	Unit # A061	Andrea L. Clark	Unit # A049
James W. Nole	Unit # B2068	Mildrene Caidor	Unit # B2082	Tyvia Gore	Unit # A108
Karl Feldman	Unit # A041	Doretha Goode	Unit # A052		

A $100.00 cash deposit is required once the unit has been purchased. All purchases must be paid with **cash only** at the time of sale. All goods are sold **AS IS** and must be removed at time of purchase in its entirety.
"The lien holder reserves the right to reschedule the Auction".
Sale of individual spaces is subject to adjournment without prior notice.

MING SELF STORAGE

The following units will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord: Ming Self Storage- Northern Liberties **at Public Sale,** by competitive bidding on **January 15, 2015 at 10.00am @**
MING SELF STORAGE 720 N. 5th Street PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123
PERSONAL GOODS STORED IN THE FOLLOWING SPACES BY THE FOLLOWING TENANTS:

Bernard Wilson Unit # 074

A $100.00 cash deposit is required once the unit has been purchased. All purchases must be paid with **cash only** at the time of sale. All goods are sold **AS IS** and must be removed at time of purchase in its entirety.
"The lien holder reserves the right to reschedule the Auction".
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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Romance is highlighted and will brighten your day. Find an inventive way to show your partner you care.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Enjoy the sense of camaraderie that develops during this festive season. Reflect on happy memories as you put the past behind you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't contribute to negative rumors or gossip. If you keep a positive outlook and look for the good in others, you will enjoy popularity and friendships.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Partnerships will be difficult if you aren't tolerant, patient and willing to give others the benefit of the doubt. Stick close to home.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. It's the time of year to forgive and forget. If you show kindness toward relatives you don't see eye to eye with, you will reassess the way you feel.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Needy or disgruntled people will get on your nerves. Don't try to please everyone. Instead, do something relaxing.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You can be the center of attention today. Make sure you don't exclude anyone. Those younger and older will crave the companionship you offer.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Your efforts will be rewarded if you brighten someone's life. Affection is your ticket to a better personal life.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Don't get caught in the middle of a family feud. Consider getting out of the house and spending time with friends.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Travel will spark your creativity and stimulate your imagination. Don't let unanticipated delays ruin your festive spirit.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Your hard work will go to waste if someone else takes the credit. Maintain a close rapport with your superiors.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Please pay close attention if you are traveling in unfamiliar places. Losing possessions will cause you difficulties, not to mention the cost. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

				3		2	4	
	8	5			2			
		3			4		5	6
			1	7		5		2
		2		5		3		
5		7		2	9			
6	7		5			4		
			6			1	3	
	4	9		8				

6					5	9		
	5		1	8				2
3		1			2			
1					7		6	
9			4		8			1
	7		6					5
			2			5		3
5				1	3		7	
		7	5					8

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Best of 2014

Through the holidays, Metro takes a look at the issues important to letter writers in 2014. Whether it was gun violence, domestic violence, world conflicts — or cyclists! — Metro readers had a lot to say. Here are some excerpts:

Ebola

I am curious what this widespread Ebola panic is that's referred to. Here, the only time I hear about it is lighthearted comments among friends. Oh, yes, and the constant news reports about how hard it is to get and that preventive measures will make it spread faster.
DIRK G. (OCT. 17)

If Kaci Hickox feels her human rights were violated, then she is evidently ignorant and needs to read the Constitution. The good nurse's right to the pursuit of happiness does not apply to threatening the health and safety of others, even if unintentionally or inadvertently, as her fellow citizens in Maine are letting her know. Ebola fears are new to the U.S., and we need to learn as we go.
ROBERT SIEGER (OCT. 30)

Kaci Hickcox, like many selfless health care workers, put her own life on the line in order to help the victims of a massive tragedy halfway around the world, only to be rewarded by being treated like a cross between a barnyard animal and Typhoid Mary when she returned here. I am amazed by the mindless cowardice on display across the media landscape, especially in the light of real threats to our safety — like the inexcusable and preventable gun violence.
ROBERT TROMBETTA (NOV. 3)

Forced quarantine does have precedence going back to the 19th century, so yes, national health trumps the nurse's temporary discomfort. I should also note it's been suggested that someone can be contagious without displaying symptoms.
SEAN ROOK (NOV. 3)

letters@metro.us

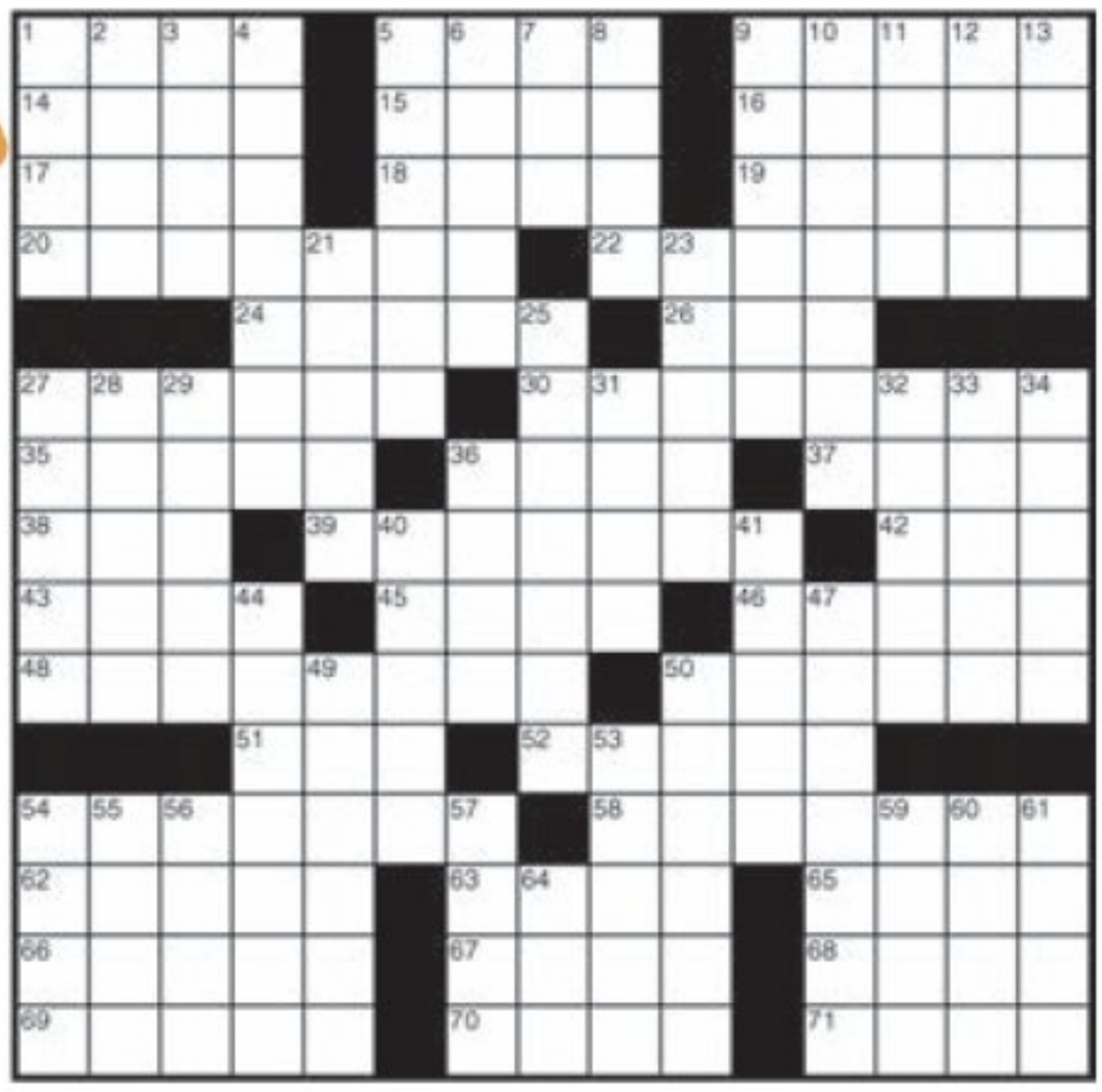
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Persist
5 Rain-delay rollout
9 Knock for a loop
14 Como — usted?
15 He directed Marlon
16 Condor's abode
17 — — foot pole
18 Barely beats
19 – and desist
20 Frisky pets
22 Fished with a net
24 "Nick of Time" singer
26 Oklahoma town
27 Ski run
30 Win a business contract
35 Leitmotif
36 Two-piece cookie
37 Art —
38 Louis XIV, e.g.
39 Renting out
42 Chainsaw target
43 Opera by Verdi
45 Volition
46 For — — (cheap)
48 Yellow wildflower
50 Lethargic
51 Response to a rodent
52 Cousteau invention
54 Like some investors
58 Honor
62 Illinois town
63 Goddess's statue
65 S&L offerings
66 Hollandaise
67 Glassmaker – Lalique
68 Adamson's lioness
69 Links champ Sam –
70 Watched carefully
71 Raise, as kids

Down
1 Drip
2 — spumante
3 Proofer's word
4 Hissy fit
5 Kind of racket
6 Elite (2 wds.)
7 Pants problem
8 Memoir topic
9 False front
10 Away from the wind
11 Ph.D. exam
12 Belgian river
13 Tall stalk
21 Painter's device
23 Hazardous gas
25 Pond denizens
27 Subway hanger
28 Cantata performers
29 Alpine moppet
31 Simon or Armstrong
32 Further down
33 PC symbols
34 Kind of bag
36 Singer — Redding
40 Jedi allies
41 Getups
44 It was named for Vespucci
47 More lathered up
49 Curbed, with "in"
50 Fenced
53 Hag
54 She preceded Mamie
55 High spirits
56 Flu symptom
57 Charter
59 Gardner of mystery
60 Hombre's home
61 Autocrat of yore
64 Susan of "L.A. Law"

Yesterday's answer



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3

SPORTS

Christmas comeback

Flyers' Mason on the mend

Rob Zepp did a fantastic job stepping in to replace injured goalie Steve Mason, but the Flyers are optimistic they'll have their starter back soon. "He's progressing and our belief is he'll come on the trip after Christmas and start off slowly and progress," GM Ron Hextall said. "That's pretty much all I have."

Temple transfers lead team to top 10 victory

NCAA. Temple didn't just beat No. 10 Kansas Monday — they completely dominated them.

Two games, two wins, 47 combined points and a 77-52 drubbing of 10th-ranked Kansas (9-2) — it's been a phenomenal week for Temple (8-4) transfers Jesse Morgan and Devin Coleman.

Morgan starred Monday in Temple's upset of the Jayhawks, notching 17 points that included a series of three straight three-point plays midway through the second half to put Kansas away. Morgan expressed how it felt to pull off the upset.

"It's a great feeling, which will ignite this team moving into conference play," said Morgan. "I was just going with the momentum and trying to make my imprint on the game and do as much as I could to make plays for this team."

Morgan averaged 13.4 points and 2.6 three-pointers per game on 35.6 percent shooting from the outside for UMass when he last played in 2012-2013. He's averaging 16.5 points and 3.5 three-pointers per game on 43.8 percent shooting from the outside in two games with the Owls. Coleman averaged 5.4 points per game on 46.3 percent shooting with Clemson last season.

Temple guard Will Cummings says having the experienced transfer players makes his job a lot easier running the point.

"It helps our team a lot [having them in the lineup]," said Cummings. "[Jesse and Devin] are great scorers. You can put the ball in their hands and trust them, which takes a lot off my shoulders. It's great knowing you have guys next to you who're going to get it done and play as hard as you on the court."

The Owls hope the momentum continues vs. Delaware State (5-7) Sunday before beginning conference play New Year's Eve vs. UConn (5-4) on the road.

"It's a good win against a terrific university and a great team with a great coach," Temple's Fran Dunphy said after the win.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

The Kansas win could help the Owls come March. / JOSEPH V. LABOLITO, TEMPLE

Quoted

"We're thrilled to have it, but come Friday when we get together as a team again we're going to prepare for Delaware State." Dunphy

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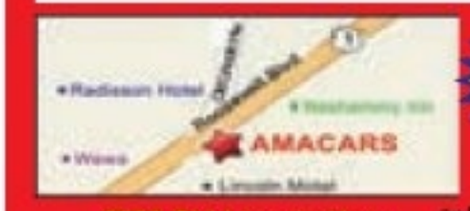

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$14,900, $274/Month

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CXL
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It's back to the drawing board for the Eagles — in more ways than one. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles focused on beating New York

NFL. Even with nothing on the line, Chip Kelly and the Eagles keep their eyes on the prize.

It could very well be the first meaningless game for Chip Kelly since he was in New Hampshire.

The Eagles have nothing left to play for, with a winning record assured and playoff hopes just a memory. But Kelly refuses to look toward 2015 yet.

"Let's get that straight. We're going to win the football game," Kelly said. "There's no, 'Hey, let's go see what we can do.' Our job is to go up and play the New York Giants, and we're going to do everything we can to beat the Giants."

There will be no opportunity to get a look at what Matt Barkley can do. And the same goes for Marcus Smith and Jaylen Watkins. It'll be the starters on the field at MetLife Stadium Sunday, the guys who have worked hard all season to earn the right to take the field for an NFL squad.

"You earn playing time here," Kelly told the media. "You're not just awarded playing time based on how you came into here because that's not the way we operate. It's not fair to anybody else. 'Hey, I know you're playing really well, I know you're doing everything we're asking you to do in practice, but I'm going to give this other guy a chance even though he's not doing anything better than you're doing.'"

Kelly sounded bitter in his press conference early this week, and why shouldn't he be? The coach saw his 9-3, first place squad fall apart and miss the playoffs before the season even ended.

"Every ending is sudden and disappointing unless you win the championship," the coach said. "I lost the national championship on a field goal at the end of the game. That was sudden. That was really disappointing."

Quoted

"It's no different than that gut-wrenching feeling that you had when you walked off the field when you played the Saints and we lost the playoff game to them." Kelly

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Flyers holiday memories: All ice hockey, all the time

NHL. Flyers stars spoke to Metro about their favorite holiday traditions and — spoiler alert — most involve hockey.

The Flyers have three days off for Christmas this year, in between games in Minnesota and Nashville. / GETTY IMAGES

If there was one consistent theme running through the fond Christmas memories of a few Philadelphia Flyers, it was — shocker — hockey. Matt Read, Wayne Simmonds and Sean Couturier all recalled their boyhood days growing up in Canada after a recent home game. And not surprisingly, hockey gifts came up a lot.

"I just loved waking up that morning and my parents always made sure I had something hockey-wise," Simmonds said. "I remember one Christmas I woke up and it was unreal. I got a Synergy [hockey stick] for Christmas. The next year I got a net. So it was always something like that. It always left a lasting memory."

While hockey-related gifts dominated their childhood memories, of course they weren't the only ones. Most of the memories were of spending quality time with their families and enjoying the special moments as kids.

For Read, he admitted he was every parent's worst nightmare on Christmas morning.

"I know my mom and dad hated it, but I was one of those kids that woke up at 4 in the morning and was jumping on their bed telling them to wake up so we could open presents," he said. "They were always like, 'Go back to bed.' They would always say to wait until at least 6:30 a.m. I had trouble even doing that."

Couturier didn't always get the opportunity to spend Christmas with both of his parents.

"My dad played pro hockey as well, so he was away from the family for most of Christmases," Couturier said. "I just loved being with my parents, friends and family. They were great times."

As adults, the day is obviously different now.

"Now that you're older, you kind of miss waking up and being with your family, opening presents, eating breakfast and enjoying each other," Read said.

Some traditions are hard to break, though.

"I was always an open presents on Christmas Eve kid and I still am," Couturier said. "My mother wanted us to wait, but my dad was the same way as me and couldn't wait to give us our presents."

It didn't matter when he opened them because Couturier usually already knew what was under the tree. Like most kids, he was a snooper around the house and usually got a sneak preview.

"Growing up, I was always looking in the closets and trying to find the presents, for sure," he said with a sheepish grin. "I got a lot of great presents growing up, but the best ones always seemed to do with hockey."

Quoted

"One year I got a pair of skates and a stick. I was the second child, so I always got the hand-me-downs. When I got that I was happy to get my own first pair of skates."

Matt Read

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